

Serial No. 09/073,029

- (10) exterior surface of said building wall and cooperating with an exterior portion
said transverse wall to define a channel facing laterally outwardly
adjacent said exterior transverse wall and laterally aligned with said
exterior surface of said building wall, a nailing flange projecting
laterally outwardly from said outer wall and said exterior transverse wall
of each of said jamb members and securing said frame to said exterior
surface of said building wall, said channels of said sill and jamb members
extending laterally inwardly of said outer walls of said sill and jamb
members and laterally inwardly of said window opening, and said channels
having substantial depth into said exterior portions of said sill and jamb
members from said outer walls to receive edge portions of exterior siding
20 mounted on said exterior surface of said building wall with the edge
portions of the siding projecting laterally inwardly of said window
opening.

REMARKS

The Office Action, and specifically the rejection of independent claim 21 over the disclosure of France '199 and the rejection of independent claim 22 over the disclosure of Huelsekopf '100, has been carefully reviewed in light of the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, claims 21 and 22 have been expanded for clarification and rewritten as new claims 25 & 26, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that claims

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25 and 26 are allowable along with the claims dependent therefrom for the reasons which follow. For Examiner's convenience, the following is claim 25 with reference numbers for the structural components of Applicants' window frame as shown in FIGS. 1 & 2.

25. In combination with a building wall (14) having an inner surface (by 18) and an exterior surface (by 22) and defining a window opening (12) receiving a frame of a window assembly (10), said frame comprising an elongated sill member (25-FIG.1) of extruded plastics material and connecting a pair of elongated jamb members (110-FIG.2) of extruded plastics material, each of said sill and jamb members including longitudinally extending and laterally spaced inner and outer walls (27, 29) connected by longitudinally extending transverse walls (31,32,33) generally perpendicular to said inner and outer walls, each of said sill and jamb members including an exterior portion (45, 135-FIG. 2) projecting outwardly from said exterior surface of said building wall and cooperating with an exterior said transverse wall (31) to define a channel (58) facing laterally outwardly adjacent said exterior transverse wall (31) and laterally aligned with said exterior surface of said building wall (14), said channels (58) of said sill and jamb members extending laterally inwardly of said outer walls (29) of said sill and jamb members and laterally inwardly of said window opening (12), and said channels (58) having substantial depth into said exterior portions (45, 135) of said

20 sill and jamb members (25, 110) from said outer walls (29) to receive edge portions of exterior siding (100) mounted on said exterior surface of said building wall (14) with the edge portions of the siding projecting laterally inwardly of said window opening (12).

New claim 26 includes the above structure of claim 25 and also includes the nailing flange 38 on the jamb members 110 to secure the frame to the exterior wall surface. Dependent claims 10, 11, & 15 have been amended for clarification in reference to the exterior transverse wall 31.

Previously filed independent claims 21 & 22 were rejected over the disclosures of France '199 and Huelsekopf '100. However, neither of these references have any disclosure which suggests Applicants' structure as more clearly set forth in above claim 25. For example, the recesses or grooves 21 and 22 within the window frame shown in French '199 are commonly used for receiving snap-in nuts which receive adjustment screws to center the window frame within the wall opening. Following this Amendment is Applicants' assignee's drawing marked Exhibit A and showing its use of similar grooves in a jamb member for receiving snap-in nuts and adjustment screws. There is no suggestion in French '199 that the grooves 21 and 22 could be used for receiving the edge portions of exterior siding. Moreover, the grooves are not located in lateral alignment with the exterior wall surface and do not have sufficient depth for receiving the edge portions of the siding mounted on the exterior wall surface. Huelsekopf '100 discloses locking channels 60 which face horizontally

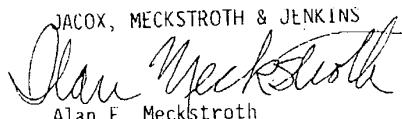
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outwardly towards the exterior of the door 28. The channels do not face laterally outwardly for receiving edge portions of exterior siding even if siding was mounted on the exterior surface of the door.

In view of the fact that neither French '199 nor Huelsekopf '100 have any suggestion or teaching of Applicants' structure as set forth in claims 25 and 26, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 25 and 26 and the claims dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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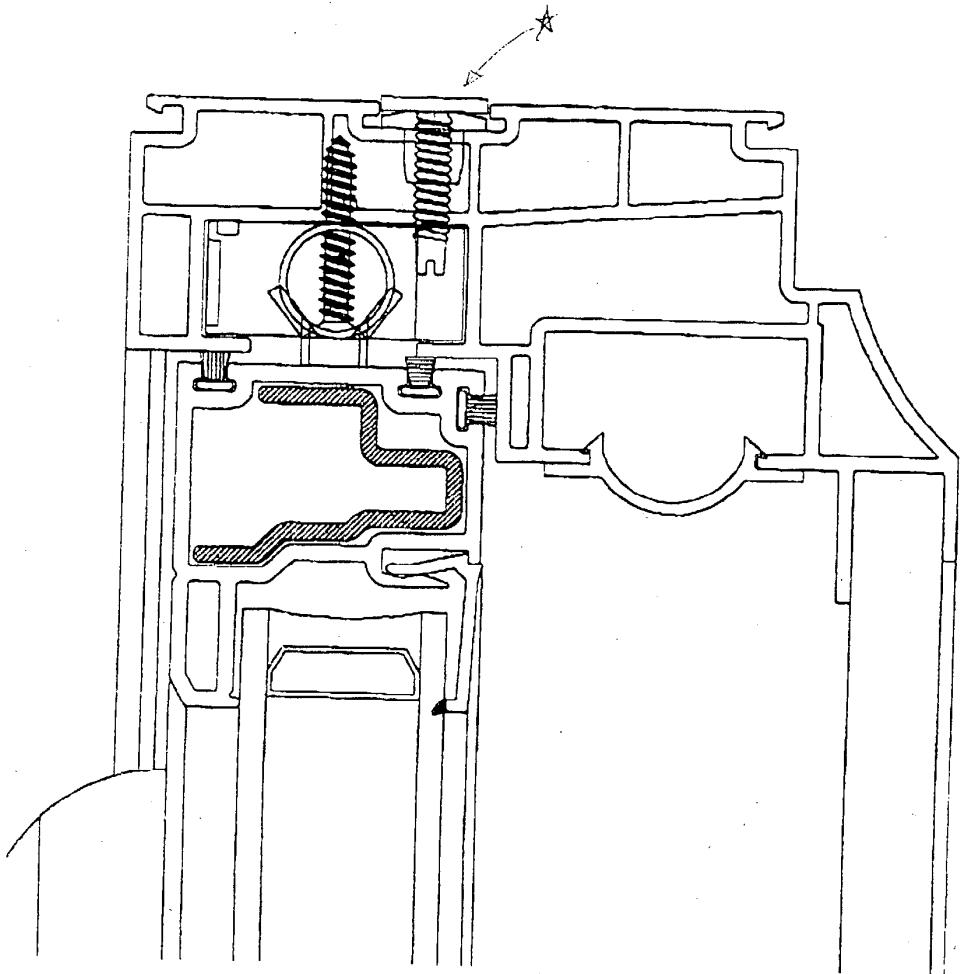


EXHIBIT A